

# Together With



WINTER 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR &amp; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## What Kills in Tennessee

Each year in Tennessee more than 100 employees are killed while on the job. The majority die in transportation incidents and are employed as drivers/sales workers and truck drivers. Another large percentage of workers are killed during assaults and violent acts in the workplace. TOSHA does not have jurisdiction over either of those types of events. Public safety officers such as police and highway patrol officers investigate those incidents and take appropriate action. In general, more men than women experience fatal occupational injuries and most are 35-54 years old. Davidson and Shelby counties have the highest numbers of fatal injuries.

TOSHA investigates workplace fatalities where violations of TOSHA standards may have contributed to the incident. In 2005 there were 27 workplace incidents where 28 workers lost their lives. Case summaries of these fatalities are available on TOSHA's Web site. The causes of workplace fatalities in 2005 were as follows:

Type of Event	# of Events	# of Employees Involved
Struck By	11	11
Fall	7	7
Overturned Equipment	2	2
Crushed By	2	2
Fires/burns	2	2
Chemical Overexposure	1	2
Trench Cave-In	1	1
Thrown From	1	1
Totals	27	28

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### 4 Things To Remember This Winter

- When employees work outside in the winter, prolonged exposure to freezing or cold temperatures may cause serious health problems such as trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia. Train workers about cold-induced illnesses and injuries and encourage workers to wear proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions, including layers that can be adjusted to changing conditions.
- When buildings are closed tight for the winter, be sure not to expose employees to carbon monoxide. If you have gasoline or propane powered industrial trucks, be sure that they are properly maintained and tuned. Ensure that gas fired ovens or furnaces do not release carbon monoxide into the workplace.
- Every year in the United States 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu. The best way to prevent the flu is by vaccination. Everyone should be encouraged to stay home when they have the flu to prevent spreading the illness to others.
- Help on occupational safety and health issues is available from TOSHA. The spring 2007 seminar schedule is posted on TOSHA's Web site and the consultative services branch can provide on-site help.



Together with TOSHA is the newsletter of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

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## What Kills in Tennessee (cont.)

There were also four workplace catastrophes where three or more employees were hospitalized but none died after an event or exposure in the workplace. The causes of workplace catastrophes in 2005 were the following:

Type of Event	# of Events	# of Employees Involved
Fire/smoke inhalation	3	20
Struck by collapsing building	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>

The youngest worker killed was a 14-year-old Hispanic laborer who was killed when he climbed inside a shredding machine and was struck by a 1750 rpm rotor blade that was used to shred plastic bags. Failure to institute lockout/tagout procedures was the principle contributor to this fatality. The oldest worker to die in a workplace incident that TOSHA investigated was an 82-year old worker who died while testing a gasoline pump in a repair shop. Uninsulated wires contacted the metal pump casing causing a spark that ignited flammable/combustible liquid on the victim's hands and clothing.



**Condition:** The employer did not develop and implement a noise monitoring program where information indicated that employees' exposure to noise may equal or exceed the "action level" of an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels.

**Potential Effects:** Employee overexposure to noise resulting in lost hearing ability over time.

**Standard:** 29 CFR 1910.95(d)(1)

**Recommended Action:** Design a sampling strategy to identify employees who are overexposed so that they can be included in a hearing conservation program and be fitted with proper hearing protection devices. Include all continuous, intermittent, and impulsive sound levels from 80 to 130 decibels in the measurement. Be sure to use a calibrated sound measuring instrument. Type I, II, or III sound level meters or noise dosimeters may be used to conduct the monitoring. Repeat the monitoring whenever a change in production, process, equipment, or controls increases the noise exposures to the extent that additional employees may be exposed at or above the action level or the attenuation of hearing protection used by exposed employees may be made inadequate. Keep records of the monitoring.



TENNESSEE SAFETY AND  
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## TENNESSEE SAFETY & HEALTH CONGRESS & EXPOSITION

"Promoting Safety & Health for Tennessee Workers"

July 22-25, 2007

GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER  
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Some Examples of Workshops Featured in the Past Are...

Lockout/ Tagout	Emerging Infections	Emergency Exits	Industrial Hygiene for Construction	Fall Protection
Workers' Compensation	Recordkeeping	Work Zone Safety for Contractors	Behavior Based Safety	New Employee Orientation
Electrical Safety	Confined Space Management	Return to Work Programs	Machine Guarding	Effective Safety Committees
10-Hour General Industry	Noise & Hearing Conservation	Back Injuries & Ergonomics	Stress Management	Accident Investigation
Chemical & Biological Terrorism	Safety & Health 'Jeopardy'	Hazard Recognition	Employee Assistance Programs	Mold Evaluation & Treatment
Management Track	Heat Stress	Regulations Requiring Training	Fire Protection	Lead Based Paint
Your TOSHA Visit	Temporary Employees	Voluntary Protection Programs	Violence in the Workplace	Asbestos

Also featuring an exposition offering the latest products and services  
available to the safety and health professional.

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A 49-year-old forestry/logging supervisor was killed during the preparation of a wooded site for a prescribed burn. After the site was deemed safe for the burn, the victim was walking the site at a safe distance from the bulldozer being used to prepare the fire line. The victim received a report of a wildfire at another location and he dispatched two crew members to respond to it. The victim was about 75 yards in front of the dozer when he indicated by hand and radio to the bulldozer operator to push down a dead oak tree. He then walked a safe distance to the left-front of the dozer and waited. While there he received a second radio call about another wildfire. As the bulldozer operator proceeded to push the dead tree from its vertical position, the victim, talking on his hand-held portable radio, walked from behind a stand of live trees into the path of the falling tree. He was struck by the tree and died at the scene.

## To prevent such an accident from happening

1. Ensure that no employee approaches a mechanical felling closer than two tree lengths of tress being felled until the machine operator has acknowledged that it is safe to do so.
2. Ensure that workers do not become distracted by other duties when in the area where trees are being felled.
3. Ensure that each employee who works in an area where there is a potential for head injury from falling or flying objects wears head protection meeting the requirements in ANSI Z89.1-1986.

